

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Administrative Meeting of August 22, 2013
10:00 a.m., Room 121, County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

“The mission of Umatilla County is to provide public services, both legally required and locally desired, in a balanced fashion and in an efficient, effective and respectful manner, within legal constraints and available resources.”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Larry Givens, Chair; Bill Elfering, Commissioner; George Murdock, Commissioner

MEMBERS & GUESTS PRESENT: Sheriff Terry Rowan; Bob Heffner, Umatilla County Budget Officer; Phil Wright, East Oregonian; Neila Wallace, constituent.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. Chair Givens reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum.

BUSINESS ON AGENDA

1. Acknowledgment of minutes of previous meeting: None
2. Additions to agenda: None
3. Consent items: None.
4. Business items:
 - a. **Consolidating Dispatch:** Commissioner Givens stated the purpose of the discussion was to answer questions and locate funding, if possible, for the new Sundridge computer software for dispatch. Bob Heffner stated there is funding available from the cash carryover, but how much is needed is the question; Commissioner Murdock asked what is the exact total needed for the county’s

portion. Sheriff Rowan stated \$295,855. He gave the spreadsheet with the cost share broken out to Connie Caplinger yesterday. Hermiston's share is minimal because it is adding features to an existing system. The primary objective would be interactive and mobile capabilities, allowing Law Enforcement officers to have computers in vehicles to work in the field more. Bob Heffner asked if that is included in the price. Sheriff Rowan reported it was all included.

Commissioner Elfering asked if there was savings in the future and how much it would be. Sheriff Rowan responded there would be economical gains in the future. One of the gains would be consolidation with Hermiston estimated to be around \$325,000 for FY2014-15 because the IGA is set to begin July 1, 2014.

Bob Heffner asked if it is labor costs or 9-1-1. Sheriff Rowan stated in part. They would be receiving Hermiston's 9-1-1 funds. Bob Heffner stated current 9-1-1 funds do not cover the costs of current personnel. Sheriff Rowan stated the Sheriff's Office will absorb some Hermiston staff, though he is not confident of numbers because the funds are calculated on a percentage of population served. The IGA has language addressing contract negotiations.

Bob stated he was unclear what the IGA covered – cost of maintenance or operations as well? Sheriff Rowan believes it covers the cost of operations. Commissioner Murdock asked how many staff are currently in dispatch? Sheriff Rowan reported a total of 17.5 FTE -- 15 dispatchers, 1 Sargent, 1 Lieutenant and ½ administrative.

Commissioner Murdock asked if Hermiston is providing 3 positions would that reduce the cost to the partners based on the pro rata distribution? Sheriff Rowan would not make a final determination on shares until the consolidation was complete. Bob Heffner stated sustainability would depend upon maintenance costs of the system. Sheriff Rowan reported the annual support required for the Sunridge system is considerably less than the current system.

Bob Heffner asked if the jail management piece was incorporated. Sheriff Rowan stated the software included in the price, which is about \$95,000 of the total price, total cost for jail management side including conversion would add \$15,000 on top of the \$95,000. Sunridge is not opposed to the Sheriff's Office holding off on

the jail management piece, but he is trying to obtain total interoperability and information sharing so his preference is to include it now.

Bob Heffner asked if there are unanticipated costs for the partners? Sheriff Rowan stated they have been advised. Conversation has been had of whether the current (CIS) program could house the Sunridge program.

Commissioner Elfering clarified his initial question on the costs as it relates to next year's budget. This consolidation will increase income more than it increases expenses, correct? Sheriff Rowan stated that was the design behind the program. They will start charging these agencies they have not charged previously. It is not a huge price tag but a step in the right direction. Bob Heffner stated there will not be any increased income. Expenses will be greater, but savings might come from diluting the County's share of the pie. Commissioner Elfering stated the income will be more than the expense incurred for the County.

Bob Heffner asked the timeline for project. Sheriff Rowan stated his initial desire is to bring online by January 1, 2014. He would like to take advantage of Hermiston's current contract with Sunridge. Police Chief Jason Edmiston offered to send Hermiston personnel to help train our staff on utilizing the system. That timeline is pushed out depending on when the agreement is finalized.

Bob Heffner asked if the Sheriff's Office will have dual systems. The Sheriff responded only during the transition. Training will come first, once converted they will move away from CIS.

Sheriff Rowan stated another savings source would be a reduction in the budgeted costs for annual maintenance to CIS. Commissioner Givens asked how much would that be. Sheriff Rowan stated \$50,000 to \$55,000. Bob Heffner asked who would be obligated. Sheriff Rowan does not think anyone is. The actual year 2013 has already been paid. Bob Hefner stated there is a possibility it might needed for a portion of the year. Sheriff Rowan confirmed that possibility.

Bob Heffner requested the spreadsheets to calculate projected costs.

Commissioner Givens inquired as to how soon they will move ahead. Sheriff Rowan responded he would like to sign the form of commitment as soon as

possible to get into the queue for the installation and begin the training and conversion.

Commissioner Elfering moved to allocate the funds to support the consolidation of the dispatch. Commissioner Murdock seconded with a comment that the Crimes Committee is trying to take strategic steps to improve public safety around the county and this seems to be part of that process. Commissioner Givens ask whether interoperability is likely to be extended to Washington counties. Sheriff Rowan knows that they are constantly seeking improvement to their systems and has let them know that we are going with this particular system. **Commissioner Elfering, Commissioner Murdock and Commissioner Givens each voted in favor. The motion carried 3-0.**

5. Public input:

Neila Wallace reported she had just attended the EQC meeting in La Grande about Hermiston Foods. They learned that the water at some point goes anaerobic. Commissioner Givens asked if DEQ indicated any conclusions. Ms. Wallace stated no. Commissioner Elfering asked if there was any information as to policy on odor from DEQ. Ms. Wallace stated she had no knowledge although the DEQ mentioned that they would be sending someone to train Hermiston Foods. Sheriff Terry Rowan is a neighbor and stated it does affect the livelihood and livability. It seems counterintuitive that the same agency that issues permits is the same agency that regulates. He would think there was some evidence of regulation. Ms. Wallace stated the recommendation was that hydrogen peroxide be added to the pools but no information has come forth if it is in fact being done.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Headley
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County
Board of Commissioners